GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:86
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2005
AVIAN INFLUENZA VIRUS
Rawat Shri Bachi Singh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the report of spread of avian influenza, a (H5 NI) virus from neighbouring countries to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof including mode of its transmission and its harmful effect on human and animals;

(c) the number of cases detected so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check and prevent its spread in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 86 FOR 9TH MARCH, 2005

In the wake of outbreak of avian influenza among poultry and other animals in Asian countries of Republic of Korea, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, Cambodia, China, Laos, Indonesia and human cases in Vietnam, Thailand and Cambodia, Government of India took adequate measures to prevent entry of Avian Influenza in to India. The measures instituted are:

- Government of India alerted all State Governments/ Union Territory administrations to keep a close watch on fatality among bird population, especially poultry and appearance of severe respiratory illness in the exposed human population.

- Ministry of Home Affairs, Environment & Forest, Shipping and Railways were sensitized on the issue to prevent cross border entry through poultry, poultry products and migratory birds.

- Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying had written to the Chief Secretaries and the Directors of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services of all the States/ UTs enclosing guidelines for prevention and spread of the disease in poultry and proforma for reporting the disease.

A ban was also enforced on import of poultry and poultry related products from all countries affected with bird flu outbreak.

A Joint Monitoring Group under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services consisting members from Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, World Health Organization and Department of Animal Husbandry is monitoring the situation and advising appropriate actions to the Government.

National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi, has been identified as nodal agency to investigate any suspected cases/outbreak among human population and the laboratories under Indian Council of Medical Research are kept in readiness.

Because of the proactive steps taken by the Government, there is no spread of Avian Influenza from neighboring countries into India. No case has been reported in India either in humans or birds. Government of India is in a state of preparedness to treat and contain the disease if it has to appear in human population.